

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NATHANIEL WASHINGTON,

Petitioner,

v.

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD,

Respondent.

No. 1:24-cv-00035-SKO (HC)

**ORDER DIRECTING CLERK OF COURT
TO ASSIGN DISTRICT JUDGE**

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION
TO SUMMARILY DISMISS
UNEXHAUSTED PETITION**

**[TWENTY-ONE DAY OBJECTION
DEADLINE]**

Petitioner is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis with a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner filed the instant habeas petition on January 8, 2024, challenging his 2019 conviction in Kern County Superior Court of assault with a deadly weapon. Because the petition appears to be unexhausted, the Court will recommend it be DISMISSED.

DISCUSSION

A. Preliminary Review of Petition

Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases allows a district court to dismiss a petition if it “plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court” Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

The Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 8 indicate that the court may dismiss a petition for writ of

1 habeas corpus, either on its own motion under Rule 4, pursuant to the respondent's motion to
2 dismiss, or after an answer to the petition has been filed. Herbst v. Cook, 260 F.3d 1039 (9th Cir.
3 2001).

4 B. Exhaustion

5 A petitioner who is in state custody and wishes to collaterally challenge his conviction by
6 a petition for writ of habeas corpus must exhaust state judicial remedies. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1).
7 The exhaustion doctrine is based on comity to the state court and gives the state court the initial
8 opportunity to correct the state's alleged constitutional deprivations. Coleman v. Thompson, 501
9 U.S. 722, 731 (1991); Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 518 (1982).

10 A petitioner can satisfy the exhaustion requirement by providing the highest state court
11 with a full and fair opportunity to consider each claim before presenting it to the federal court.
12 Duncan v. Henry, 513 U.S. 364, 365 (1995). A federal court will find that the highest state court
13 was given a full and fair opportunity to hear a claim if the petitioner has presented the highest
14 state court with the claim's factual and legal basis. Duncan, 513 U.S. at 365 (legal basis); Kenney
15 v. Tamayo-Reyes, 504 U.S. 1, 112 S.Ct. 1715, 1719 (1992) (factual basis).

16 Additionally, the petitioner must have specifically told the state court that he was raising a
17 federal constitutional claim. Duncan, 513 U.S. at 365-66. In Duncan, the United States Supreme
18 Court reiterated the rule as follows:

19 In Picard v. Connor, 404 U.S. 270, 275 . . . (1971), we said that exhaustion of state
20 remedies requires that petitioners "fairly presen[t]" federal claims to the state
21 courts in order to give the State the "opportunity to pass upon and correct alleged
22 violations of the prisoners' federal rights" (some internal quotation marks omitted).
23 If state courts are to be given the opportunity to correct alleged violations of
24 prisoners' federal rights, they must surely be alerted to the fact that the prisoners
25 are asserting claims under the United States Constitution. If a habeas petitioner
26 wishes to claim that an evidentiary ruling at a state court trial denied him the due
27 process of law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, he must say so, not only
28 in federal court, but in state court.

25 Duncan, 513 U.S. at 365-366. The Ninth Circuit examined the rule further, stating:

26 Our rule is that a state prisoner has not "fairly presented" (and thus exhausted) his
27 federal claims in state court *unless he specifically indicated to that court that those*
28 *claims were based on federal law. See Shumway v. Payne*, 223 F.3d 982, 987-88
(9th Cir. 2000). Since the Supreme Court's decision in Duncan, this court has held
that the *petitioner must make the federal basis of the claim explicit either by citing*

federal law or the decisions of federal courts, even if the federal basis is "self-evident," Gatlin v. Madding, 189 F.3d 882, 889 (9th Cir. 1999) (citing Anderson v. Harless, 459 U.S. 4, 7 . . . (1982), or the underlying claim would be decided under state law on the same considerations that would control resolution of the claim on federal grounds. Hiivala v. Wood, 195 F3d 1098, 1106-07 (9th Cir. 1999); Johnson v. Zenon, 88 F.3d 828, 830-31 (9th Cir. 1996);

In Johnson, we explained that the petitioner must alert the state court to the fact that the relevant claim is a federal one without regard to how similar the state and federal standards for reviewing the claim may be or how obvious the violation of federal law is.

Lyons v. Crawford, 232 F.3d 666, 668-669 (9th Cir. 2000) (italics added), as amended by Lyons v. Crawford, 247 F.3d 904, 904-5 (9th Cir. 2001).

Petitioner indicates he has not sought any state court relief following sentencing. Because Petitioner has not presented his claims for federal relief to California Court of Appeals and the California Supreme Court, the Court must dismiss the petition. Raspberry v. Garcia, 448 F.3d 1150, 1154 (9th Cir. 2006); Jiminez v. Rice, 276 F.3d 478, 481 (9th Cir. 2001). The Court cannot consider a petition that is entirely unexhausted. Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 521-22 (1982).

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of Court is DIRECTED to assign a District Judge to the case.

RECOMMENDATION

Accordingly, the Court HEREBY RECOMMENDS that the habeas corpus petition be DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE for lack of exhaustion.

This Findings and Recommendation is submitted to the United States District Court Judge assigned to this case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. section 636 (b)(1)(B) and Rule 304 of the Local Rules of Practice for the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. Within twenty-one days after being served with a copy, Petitioner may file written objections with the Court. Such a document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendation.” The Court will then review the Magistrate Judge’s ruling pursuant to 28

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1 U.S.C. § 636 (b)(1)(C). Failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to
2 appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

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4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 Dated: January 10, 2024

6 /s/ Sheila K. Oberto
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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE